



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

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Everything you need for
worship is in this bulletin.

+ + +

All who trust that
Christ is present in Holy
Communion are invited to
receive Him with us today.

+ + +

Please silence your cell
phone.

+ + +

Children are always
welcome in our worship!
Classroom 4 in the Annex
has space for nursing,
changing, or a sensory
break, if necessary.

+ + +

Our AED is mounted on
the wall in the stairway
next to the baptismal font.

+ + +



At Trinity, we welcome
all LGBTQ+ people as
full participants in our
common life. We're proud
to proclaim this publicly in
our city and wider church
as a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 AM

EASTER 5

APRIL 28, 2024

Congregational words are in bold print.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

James Biery

Please stand in body or spirit.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

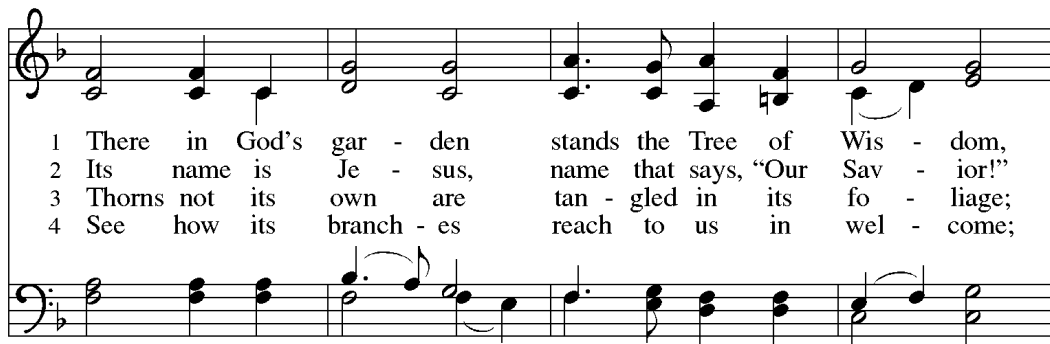
We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for Wyomissing Creek. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN - ELW 342 - There in God's Garden

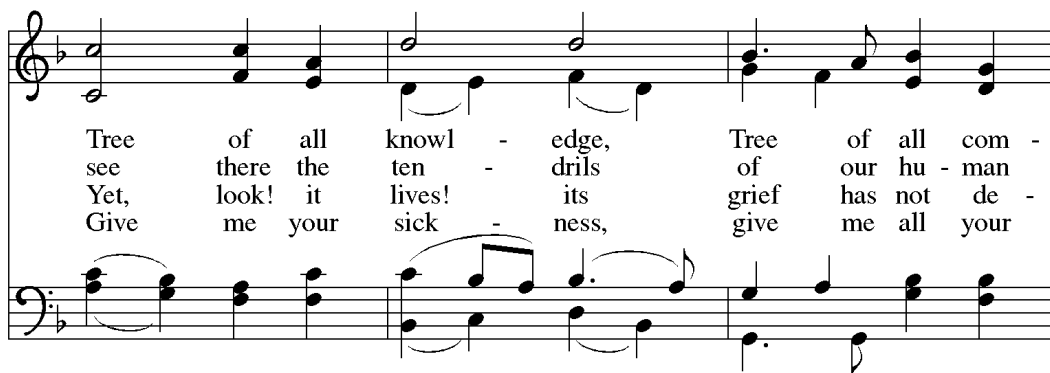
Stanza 3: High Voices, Stanza 5: Lower Voices




1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!"



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drills of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending,
 this my resurrection;
 into your hands, Lord,
 I commit my spirit.
 This have I searched for;
 now I can possess it.
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion
 offers in mercy
 healing, strength, and pardon.
 Peoples and nations,
 take it, take it freely!"
 Amen! My Master!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Continued on the next page...

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you give us your Son
as the vine apart from whom we cannot live.

Nourish our life in his resurrection,
that we may bear the fruit of love
and know the fullness of your joy,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

After the reading:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31

The choir introduces the antiphon. The congregation repeats the antiphon and sings the antiphon where indicated. The congregation sings the psalm responsively with the choir.



²⁵From you comes my praise in the [great] assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who [fear] the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall [eat and] be satisfied.**
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! ...
May your [hearts live] forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and [turn to] the LORD;
all the families of nations shall [bow be]-fore God.

²⁸**For dominion be-[longs to] the LORD,**
who rules [over] the nations. *Antiphon*

²⁹Indeed all who sleep in the earth shall bow [down] in worship;
all who go down to the dust, ...
though they be dead, ... shall kneel be-[fore] the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall [serve] the LORD,**
whom they shall proclaim to gener-[ations] to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people [yet] unborn,
saying to them, ... "The [LORD] has acted!" *Antiphon*

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

After the reading:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Please stand in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

SERMON

Please stand in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY - ELW 690 - We Raise Our Hands to You, O Lord



1 We raise our hands to you, O Lord, like
2 What good and blessing you bestow are
3 Oh, make our barren trees to grow, our
4 As summer follows spring-time's rain, grace
5 Through grace your new creation lies in



emp - ty ves - sels. Oh, come to us and
free - ly giv - en. Your pow'r will make the
hands to blos - som, and let our lives bring
fol - lows sor - row, and grief and joy shall
hands held o - pen. O Giv - er of all



give us life from springs where liv - ing wa - ters flow.
weak - est strong and bar - ren branch - es start to bud.
forth such fruit that heals our neigh - bor's grief and pain.
bear much fruit, though hid - den from our hu - man eyes.
good - ness, come, dwell with us in our earth - ly home.

Text: Svein Ellingsen, b. 1929; tr. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, b. 1929

Music: Trond Kverno, b. 1945

Tr. © Hedwig T. Durnbaugh

Music © 1978 Norsk Musikforlag

VI REKKER VÅRE HENDER FREM

8 5 8 8

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the world, and for all of God's creation.

After a brief silence each petition concludes:

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

After the final petition:

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please greet one another and then be seated.

OFFERTORY

Rice of Life

Swhee Hong Lim

The Trinity Choir

*The rice of life from heaven came to bring true life from God above.
Receive this gift, God's mercy claim, in joy and pain give thanks for love.*

*True rice the hungry world has fed, the rice required for life below.
Provide this gift, God's mercy spread, in weakness God's compassion show.*

*The rice of God for all is meant, no one who comes is turned away.
Believe in Christ whom God has sent, in humble trust God's will obey.*

*The living rice, for all a sign, came down eternal life to give.
Abide in Christ, the living vine, in Christ, with people die and live.*

Please stand in body or spirit.

CANTICLE



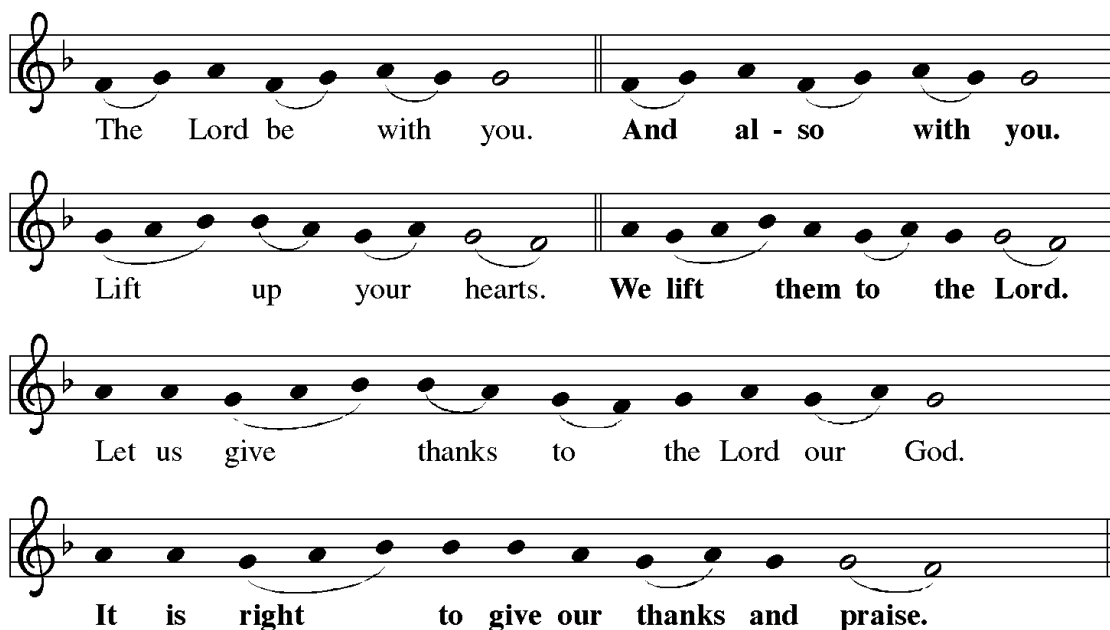
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
Amen.

DIALOG



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

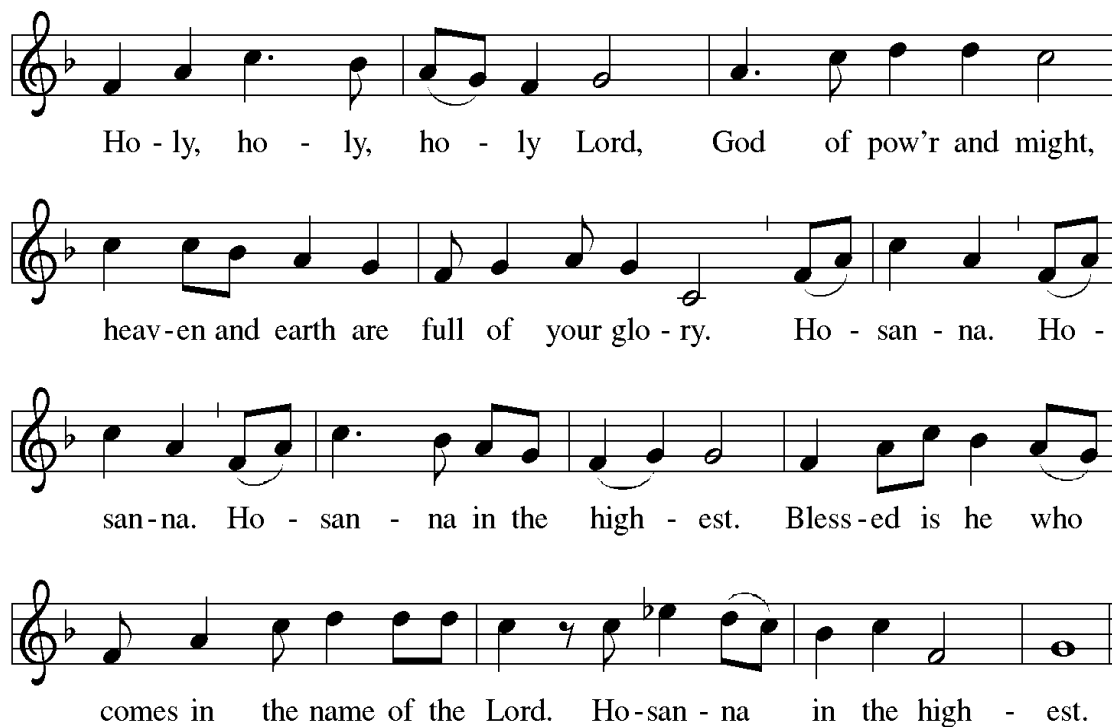
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God...
beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water...
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son...
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread...
at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit...
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

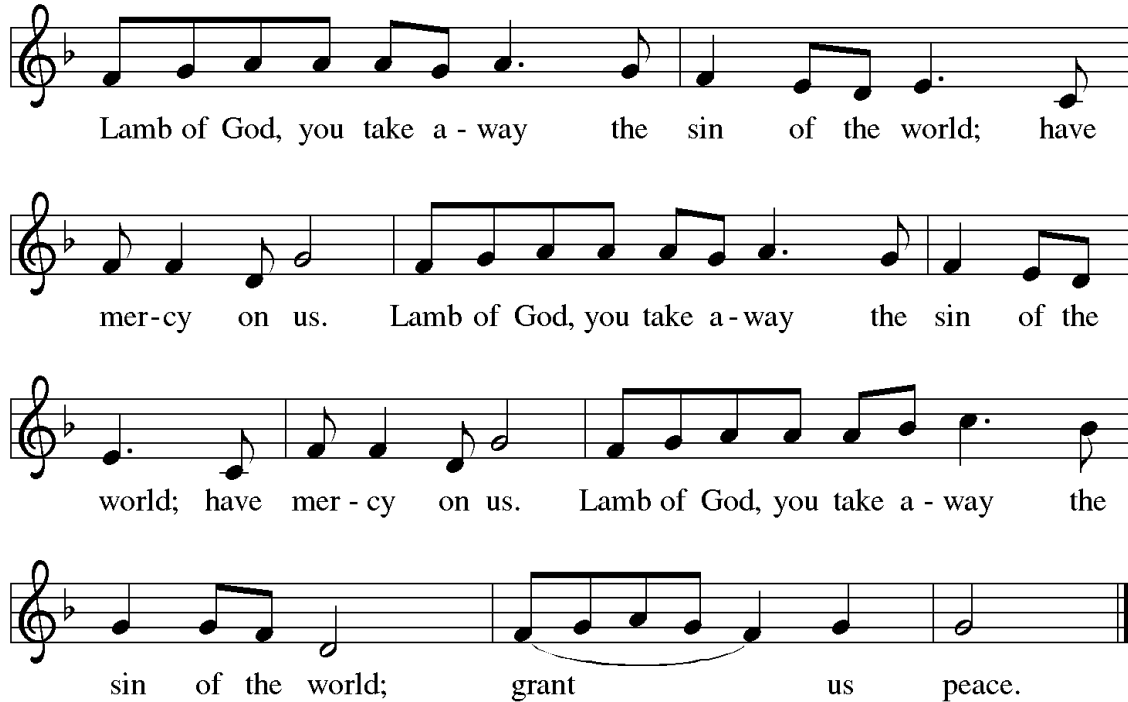
For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

Be seated.

COMMUNION CANTICLE



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

All who trust that Jesus Christ is present in this holy meal are invited to receive communion.

Please follow the direction of the usher; if your pew is located on one of the side aisles, walk to the rear of the sanctuary. Two lines will form in the center aisle. The left line will commune at the left side of the altar rail; the right line will commune on the right side.

When you reach the front of the sanctuary, there are serving trays located on the tables. Please choose either an empty glass to receive wine, or, if you prefer, a prefilled glass in the center ring containing grape juice. After taking your cup, proceed to the rail. Fill in around the rail from the center to the ends. You may stand or kneel as is your preference.

The pastor will give you a piece of bread; eat it when you receive it. If you prefer a gluten free alternative, please inform the pastor.

Then, an assistant will come to offer wine from a pouring chalice. Please extend your glass to be filled with wine or indicate that you have grape juice. After drinking the wine or juice, you are welcome to remain in place for a moment of meditation.

After you finish your time of reflection, please return to your pew, depositing your empty glass in the trays located on the tables at the head of the side aisles.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION - ELW 403 - Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Please stand in body or spirit.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Shepherding God,

you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.

Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

BLESSING

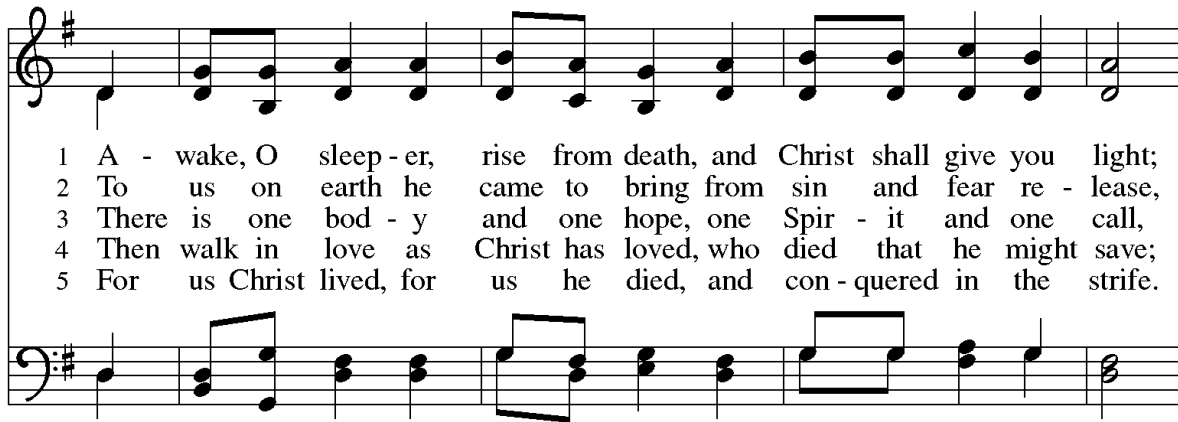
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN - ELW 452 - Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829
Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Azmon

Paul Manz

*Please join us for coffee and conversation in the Hintz Room immediately following worship.
Today's reception is hosted by Ralph & Vickie Unruh and Dave & Sue Shellong.*

+ + +

Concert of Reading Musical Foundation Scholarship Winners

TODAY at 4:00 PM in the Trinity nave. Come, hear these talented young folks share their gift of music with us.

Sunday Forum May 5: The Story of St. Stephen (continued)

In the Season of Easter, we hear stories in worship from the book of Acts. One oft-overlooked story is the ministry and witness of St. Stephen, the church's first martyr. Join Pr. Hans in Sunday Forum to open Acts and learn more about the early church's witness—and how it might inspire us today.

Music Ministry Sunday May 5

Music Ministry Sunday will be celebrated on May 5 during our 10 AM service. It is anticipated that this will be the final time to hear all our choirs participate in one service under the direction of our Minister of Music.

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Sunday, April 28, 2024 - Easter 5

Leaders in Today's Liturgy

Presiding: Pr. Hans E. Becklin

Preaching: Dcs. Deborah Graf

Assisting Minister: Fred Opalinski

Minister of Music: Karen S. Eddinger

Lector: Amy Heins

Communion Assistant: Tom Hofmann

Acolyte: Declan Rosenbaum

Greeter: Mae Sunderland

Ushers: Dave & Sue Shellong

Media Team: Kate Speece, Tom Hofmann and Danielle Smith

Altar Guild: Bernadette Ilgen, Jacinda Motley, Joshua Motley, Linda Motley, Charlene Norton, Robin Oberholtzer and Beth Welz

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Marian Jameson and family in loving memory of Bob Jameson

We thank Dcs. Deborah Graf for choosing today's hymns

Immediate Prayer Requests

Chris Drayer, Dan Smith, Dar Unger, Dan Rothermel, Deborah Lawton (aunt of Jessica Manning), and the family and friends of Donald K. Hatt (friend of Herb Stine)

Ongoing Prayer Requests

Ed Wasmuth, George Phelps, Harry Feinauer, Jerry Holleran, Nancy Zweig, Terry Hack (brother-in-law of Maggie Shelly), Sandra Sittler, Ann Harnish, Amy Bornhofen, Bette Ashton (Christine Motley's grandmother), John Bornhofen, Celia Cosentino (friend of Jane Zobian), Dick Evans, Bob & Carol Hoffman (Christine Motley's parents), Katy Jablonowski (daughter of Nancy Everson), Darryl Jeffries, Tina Koch (friend of Jenn Smith), Nancy Nagle, the Sawyer family, Walter Schur, David Unruh (brother of Ralph Unruh), Jonathan Bloom (friend of Jenn Smith), Patrick (manager of KRE security guard, Allen Greenawalt), and Fred Strause (friend of Peter & Deborah Graf)

Trinity Households and Ministry Partners

Nancy Nagle; Stephen & Helen Najarian; William & Charlene Norton; James Ritz & Amy, William, & Grace Norton-Ritz; and Craig & Robin Oberholtzer; Christ Episcopal Church and Fr. Bryce Wandrey; the Common Ground Recovery Community, Pr. Tom Scornavacchi, and Pr. Jayme Babczak, and the ministries of our Lutheran Pantries and community food pantries

Attendance April 21: 86

Broadcast Schedule for this week on Comcast Channel 190

Sundays

6:00 PM World Views:
Contemporary Quaker Tradition
6:30 PM Music From Trinity:
Soli Deo Gloria (Part 2)
7:00 PM Trinity Worship Service

Wednesdays

4:00 PM Trinity Worship Service
5:00 PM Music From Trinity:
Soli Deo Gloria (Part 2)
5:30 PM World Views:
Contemporary Quaker Tradition

Trinity's Sunday morning worship is also live streamed via Facebook and YouTube. You may log on to either platform on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM and worship at the same time as the in-person congregation.

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, April 28

9:00 AM: Sunday Forum: (Hintz Room)
9:00 AM: Trinity TLC (Room 4)
10:00 AM: Worship (Nave)
11:15 AM: Mixed Ensemble (Balcony)
11:30 AM: Coffee & Conversation (Hintz Room)
2:00 PM: Common Ground Worship and Meal
4:00 PM: Reading Musical Foundation
Scholarship Winner Concert (Nave)

Monday, April 29

1:00 PM: Program Staff Meeting

Tuesday, April 30

9:30 AM: Full Staff Meeting
5:45 PM: Property Work Night

Wednesday, May 1

6:30 PM: Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
7:30 PM: Trinity Choir Rehearsal (Balcony)

Friday, May 3

3:30 PM: Refresh Berks Team (Hintz Room)

Saturday, May 4

8:00 AM: Property Workday (Welcome Center)

Sunday, May 5 - Music Ministry Sunday

9:00 AM: Sunday Forum: (Hintz Room)
9:00 AM: Trinity TLC (Room 4)
10:00 AM: Worship (Nave)
11:15 AM: Coffee & Conversation (Hintz Room)
2:00 PM: Common Ground Worship and Meal

Trinity Lutheran Church

527 Washington Street, Reading, PA 19601
(610) 374-4861 www.trinityreading.org

Church office hours are 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Monday-Thursday

Staff of Trinity Lutheran Church

The Rev. Hans E. Becklin	Senior Pastor
Deaconess Deborah Graf	Deacon for Formation & Service
Karen S. Eddinger	Minister of Music
Matthew Mellen	Media Director
Rachel Gambone	Parish Secretary
Pam Wasmuth	Bookkeeper
Peter Graf	Financial Administrator
Dave Troche	Sexton

The Rev. Fred S. Opalinski Pastor Emeritus